

February 2020

# West Deptford Middle School

675 Grove Road, West Deptford, NJ 08066

[www.wdeptford.k12.nj.us](http://www.wdeptford.k12.nj.us) : 856-848-1200

## WDMS 3rd ANNUAL AFRICAN AMERICAN READ-IN

On February 25, 2020, WDMS will host its third African American Read-In through collaboration with our Professor in Residence (PIR) from Rowan University, Daniel Tulino. The National African American Read-In is the nation's first and oldest event dedicated to diversity in literature. Established in 1990 by the Black Caucus of the National Council of Teachers of English, its goal was to make literacy a significant part of Black History Month. The initiative has reached more than 6 million participants around the world. "The African American Read-In (AARI) is built on an ambitious yet confident premise that a school and community reading event can be an effective way to promote diversity in children's literature, encourage young people to read and shine a spotlight on African American authors." (NCTE Council Chronicle, November 2014). On this day, various readers from all ethnicities will visit classrooms to read a piece of literature from an African American author to become a beacon of learning during this event. This is an amazing experience for our WDMS community.



## PTO Designer Bag Bingo and Basket Auction

The WDMS PTO annual Designer Bag Bingo and Basket Auction is Friday, February 21, 2020, in the WDMS Cafeteria! Doors open at 6:00pm and games will begin at 7:00pm. Tickets are \$30 each and on sale now! Tickets include 15 games of bingo, dabber, door prizes and light refreshments. Also available are the basket auction, special raffles, and 50/50! Feel free to bring your own food and non-alcoholic beverages.

You must be 18 years of age to attend and play. Tickets sell fast-be sure to get a ticket while you can! For ticket info, contact Patty Watts 856-343-8789 or [thewattsfamily@msn.com](mailto:thewattsfamily@msn.com), Amber Hill 302-387-3288 or [ahill1202@yahoo.com](mailto:ahill1202@yahoo.com) or Heather Miller 609-820-3389 or [mamamiller@verizon.net](mailto:mamamiller@verizon.net). Tickets are available now at the elementary schools Green-Fields School (Amber Hill), Oakview School (Dee Leonard) and Red Bank School (Heather Miller) and will be available at the WDMS PTO meeting on February 4. Large parties of 10 or more, please contact Patty Watts to reserve a table. Thank you for your support!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### February 1-28

Student Council Sock Drive

### February 4

PTO Mtg-WDMS library 6:30

### February 7

Q2-All A's Ice Cream/Honor Roll pretzels

### February 11

Philadelphia Orchestra trip-5/6 Choir & Band students

### February 13

Jump Rope for Heart

### February 13

Krispy Kreme fundraiser ends

### February 14

School Closed-Presidents' Day

### February 17

School Closed-Presidents' Day

### February 18

Gertrude Hawk Candy Sale begins

### February 21

Pajamas for Hunger Day

### February 21

PTO Designer Bag BINGO 6pm

### February 21

Krispy Kreme Donuts delivery

### February 25

African American Read-In

### February 25

G&T History Night 6:00 pm

### February 25

Winter Athletic Teams Pizza Party; 2:37-3:35pm, WDMS Cafe

### February 26

Lost & Found donated to local charity

### February 26

PTO Wendy's Night 5-8 pm

## STUDENT DROP OFF EARLY MORNING

The school day for students officially begins at 7:55am. Students must be in homeroom by 7:55 am or they will be marked late. For your convenience, the doors will be open at 7:25am for students that wish to arrive early. These students will report to their lockers at 7:45am. **Any student arriving before 7:25am will be left unsupervised and outside (in possible inclement weather) until 7:25am.**

## STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS

### BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Student Council Representatives will help celebrate and bring awareness to Black History Month. Each morning during the month of February students will read fun, interesting and informative facts to pay tribute to the generations of African Americans who struggled with adversity to achieve full citizenship in American society. Our Black History Month festivities will culminate with our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual African American Read-In to be held on Tuesday, February 25, 2020.

### SOCK DRIVE

WDMS Student Council is once again collaborating with the WDHS Key Club for its annual Sock Drive. Collected socks will be given to the Rowan University Street Medicine Organization to aide in their dedication to promoting health and well-being of people living on the streets in Camden. **Beginning Feb 1 through Feb 28 new, unopened socks will be collected at all WDMS home athletic events and daily in the collection hampers located in the WDMS cafeteria.**

### PAJAMAS FOR HUNGER

On February 21, WDMS will again collaborate with the South Jersey Dream Center for its second annual "Pajamas for Hunger Day". The philosophy behind this event is simple, bring a new box a cereal to school and wear your pajamas in school for the day. **Along with boxes of cereal, Student Council will be collecting oatmeal, granola bars and breakfast items. Donations will be collected during homeroom on February 21, 2020.** We look forward to topping last year's donation of 566 boxes of cereal and breakfast items!

### LOOKING AHEAD

#### **March**

7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade Spring Fling 3/20  
Downs Syndrome Awareness day 3/21

#### **April**

Autism Awareness Day 4/2

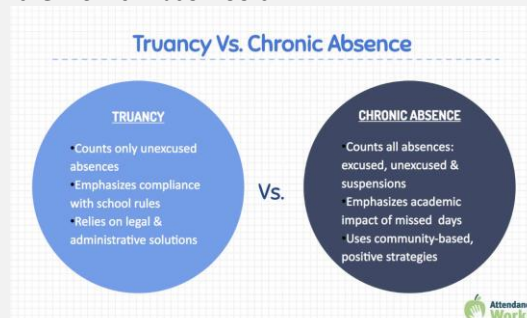
**WDMS STUDENT COUNCIL**  
*SERVICE with pride*  
*LEAD with confidence*  
*INSPIRE to impact lives.*

## 5 Quick Facts about School Attendance:

Source: [AttendanceWorks.org](https://www.attendanceworks.org)

1. Absenteeism in the first month of school can predict poor attendance throughout the school year. Half the students who miss 2-4 days in September go on to miss nearly a month of school.
2. Poor attendance can influence whether children read proficiently by the end of third grade or be held back.
3. By 6<sup>th</sup> grade, chronic absence becomes a leading indicator that a student will drop out of high school.
4. Research shows that missing 10 percent of the school year, or about 18 days in most school districts, negatively affects a student's academic performance. That's just two days a month and that's known as chronic absence.
5. When students improve their attendance rates, they improve their academic prospects and chances for graduating.

### What is Chronic Absenteeism?



## WDMS JUMPS ROPE FOR HEART DISEASE



Jump Rope for Heart is a great way for our students to raise funds and awareness to help combat Heart Disease, the #1 killer of all Americans. Interested students will collect donations from family and friends. A \$5 donation is required to participate in this event. This year's event will be held on Thursday, February 13, during 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> periods. All students will receive information from their PE teacher on how to participate. Due to space limitations, this event will be capped at the first 180 students who sign-up. Please contact Mrs. Ramagli at [kramagli@wdeptford.k12.nj.us](mailto:kramagli@wdeptford.k12.nj.us) with questions.

## FROM THE WDMS HEALTH OFFICE

It's cold and flu season! Below are some helpful tips for keeping your child healthy during the school year.

- ✓ Frequent handwashing is one of the simplest-most effective ways to prevent the spread of germs. The Mayo clinic suggests soaping up for as long as it takes to sing the "Happy Birthday" song twice
- ✓ Use hand sanitizer
- ✓ Cover your mouth when you sneeze or cough
- ✓ Keep hands away from your eyes, nose and mouth
- ✓ Stay current on all childhood vaccines including the flu shot

Students should stay home from school for at least 24 hours if they have:

- ✓ A fever of 100 degrees or more
- ✓ Chills
- ✓ Sore throat or cough
- ✓ Diarrhea or vomiting

## TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION

No child will be permitted to ride on other buses for any reason. Each student can only ride the bus they are assigned to ride. If you have a one day childcare issue, the person watching your child should pick them up at the school. No students are permitted to switch between buses.

**Students will NOT be given permission by WDMS administration to walk to any other location except home. (i.e. ice cream stand, pizza place or a friends)**

**For additional transportation information, please visit our district website at:**

[http://www.wdeptford.k12.nj.us/district\\_info/transportation](http://www.wdeptford.k12.nj.us/district_info/transportation)

## LATE BUSES

Late buses are every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Late buses should depart at 3:45pm. Late bus runs are typically longer as there are only four late buses covering a larger area. Students may not stay after school unless they are supervised by a teacher. If attending a sporting event as a spectator, students must leave and return at the beginning of the event.

## PTO NEWS – FEBRUARY 2020

4 PTO Meeting 6:30

21 Designer Bag Bingo- doors open at 6:00pm

26 Wendy's 5-8 PM

WDMS PTO is always looking for volunteers. Please consider attending one of our monthly meetings to find out more about us. Meetings are held the 1<sup>st</sup> Tues of each month in the WDMS library at 6:30 pm.

**Designer Bag Bingo & Basket Auction** tickets will be on sale until the day of the event. The PTO is looking for basket donation items and volunteers for this event. Please contact Patty Watts @ [thewattsfamily@msn.com](mailto:thewattsfamily@msn.com) for additional information on how to volunteer or donate.

## BOX TOPS and other fundraising efforts...

WDMS is collecting box tops and soda tabs. Box tops are used by the PTO as another source of revenue. To encourage students to participate, we have monthly contests to see which homeroom collects the most Box Tops. The students in the winning homeroom each receive a free pretzel. Soda tabs are also collected in each homeroom and will be donated to the Ronald McDonald House in late spring.

The PTO also participates in a number of **FREE School Support Programs** such as Shoparoo, Amazon Smile, Ebates/Rakuten and Coke Rewards. Please click [HERE](#) or visit our WDMS website for additional information on these programs.

**Thank you for your continued support!**



## LOST AND FOUND

The Lost and Found is located in the cafeteria to allow for students to check for their missing items daily. Any found eyeglasses, purses/wallets, cell phones, or other electronics are kept in the main office until they are claimed. Once a month we notify students and parents that the lost and found is full and all unclaimed items will be donated to a local charity.

## WDMS ATHLETICS

Individual sport schedules and coach contact information are available on the WDMS website under the Athletic tab. Athletic late buses depart WDMS at approximately 4:30pm. Students may not stay after school without teacher supervision. If attending a sporting event as a spectator, students must leave and return at the beginning of the event. In the event an athletic event is postponed or canceled at the last minute, a "Remind" message will be sent from our Athletic Coordinator and a message will be posted in red at the top of the WDMS website. If interested in receiving Remind texts regarding the WDMS Athletics, please text @wdmsath to 81010 to sign up for Remind Text from our Athletic Coordinator, Mr. Jakubowski.

# WDMS Winter Athletics

### GIRLS BASKETBALL

Date	Time	Versus	Location
2/4	4:00 PM	Haddon Twp	Haddon Twp
2/6	4:00 PM	Haddon Heights	WDMS
2/11	3:45 PM	Audubon	WDMS
2/12	4:00 PM	Gloucester City	WDMS
2/13	4:00 PM	Hammonton	WDMS
2/18	4:00 PM	Haddonfield	Haddonfield
2/20	3:45 PM	Collingswood	Collingswood

### BOYS BASKETBALL

Date	Time	Versus	Location
2/4	4:00 PM	Haddon Twp	WDMS
2/6	4:00 PM	Haddon Heights	Haddon Hts
2/11	3:45 PM	Audubon	Audubon
2/12	4:00 PM	Gloucester City	Glou. City
2/13	4:00 PM	Hammonton	Hammonton
2/18	4:00 PM	Haddonfield	WDMS
2/20	3:45 PM	Collingswood	WDMS

### BOYS BASKETBALL

Date	Time	Versus	Location
2/3	4:00 PM	Haddon Twp	Haddon Twp
2/5	4:00 PM	Haddonfield	Haddonfield
2/8	9:00 AM	Paulsboro	Paulsboro HS

## WDMS SPRING TRACK & FIELD BEGINS!

The West Deptford Middle School Track & Field Team has enjoyed tremendous success over the years. They have compiled several consecutive winning seasons and will seek to build on this during the 2020 season. The team will begin training together on Monday, March 16. This season will be Coach Stanwood's third season as head coach alongside assistant Coach Booz. Coach Stanwood & Coach Booz are truly looking forward to practices and getting all of the student-athletes prepared for the high school level. Stanwood is quoted, "I am looking forward to another season as this great school's head coach! Our main goal is to have all of our student-athletes show growth throughout the year and be successful."

There will be an interest meeting in early February for any 6th-8th grade students interested in joining the team. The date will be on the morning announcements in the near future. Athletic physical forms can be found on the WDMS website, <http://ms.wdeptford.k12.nj.us/> under the "Athletics" tab. **The deadline to return completed physical forms is March 6, 2020.** All students must be medically cleared by the Nurse's office before they will be permitted to practice. Please contact our Athletic Coordinator, Mr. Jakubowski at [sjakubowski@wdeptford.k12.nj.us](mailto:sjakubowski@wdeptford.k12.nj.us) with any questions.